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# U.S. PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON VETERAN'S PENSIONS (Bradley Commission): Records, 1954-58

Accessions 69-22 & 79-6 Processed by: AW, TB Date Completed: October 1992

The records of the Bradley Commission were found in the attic of the Executive Office Building in 1968 and were forwarded to the Eisenhower Library the same year. A small accretion was received in 1978 from the Office of Management and Budget.

Linear feet: 75
Approximate number of Pages: 121,600
Approximate number of items: 80,000

Literary rights in the records of the Bradley Commission are in the public domain. These records were reviewed under provisions of the instrument of gift of Dwight D. Eisenhower signed April 13, 1960. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

- 1. Papers that are security-classified until such classification shall be removed.
- 2. Papers the use of which may be prejudicial to the maintenance of good relations with foreign nations.
- 3. Papers containing statements made in confidence unless the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.
- 4. Papers relating to family or private business affairs;
- 5. Papers containing statements which might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The U. S. President's Commission on Veteran's Pensions, commonly known as the Bradley Commission after its chairman General Omar N. Bradley, was established the Executive Order 10588 on January 14, 1955, and concluded its business after submitting its final report to President Eisenhower in April 1956. Most of the work of the Commission was done by its staff under the direction of the Executive Director, Major General Ernest M. Brannon, and the Technical Adviser Michael March.

The Commission was charged with studying different types of benefits which had been granted to veterans. These included financial benefits such as pensions; educational benefits such as vocational rehabilitation and student aid; and employment benefits such as job security, insurance and reemployment rights. The Commission did not study hospital treatment or other medical benefits.

In the course of its work, the staff collected extensive information from various government agencies which dealt with veterans. Of particular importance was the Veterans Administration. Other agencies which assisted the Commission included the Labor and Defense Departments, the Social Security Administration, and the Railroad Board. The staff also made surveys of randomly selected Veterans in order to develop statistical analyses of the use and effectiveness of various benefit programs.

The studies compiled by the staff pertain to all major areas of non-medical veterans benefits. Included are studies of the historical background of benefits, how benefits were administered, eligibility requirements, distinctions between service-connected and non-service-connected benefits, and benefits granted to survivors of veterans. The staff even studied benefits granted by the Canadian government in order to compare them with U. S. benefits. These studies were submitted to Congress by the Commission and were published in 16 volumes by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

This collection consists of the surviving records of the Bradley Commission. The material is arranged in three series. The first series contains the administrative records of the Commission. This material includes budget and personnel information; general correspondence with the public, veterans organizations and government agencies; and transcripts of staff briefings and meetings of the full Commission.

The second series contains files relating to the studies made by the Commission's staff. These are arranged by the general topic being studied. For each topic there are background information provided by government agencies, preliminary studies compiled by the staff, and drafts of the final reports on the topics.

The third series consists of miscellaneous files such as printed material, oversized statistical tables and computer printouts used for reference purposes by the staff.

The series also includes samples of survey forms submitted by individual veterans and IBM computer cards used by the staff for their statistical surveys. A subseries consisting of material on the Committee on Review of Concepts does not appear to relate to the work of the Commission. This committee was an organization in the Bureau of the Budget which studied labor statistics. The files apparently belonged to Paul Stanchfield, a Labor Department official who served on the committee and who was on loan to the Commission.

#### Appendix: List of Staff Studies

These reports, compiled by the staff of the Commission, were published by the Committee Veterans Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives during 1956. A complete set is in the book collection of the Eisenhower Library.

- 1. The Historical Development of Veteran's Benefits in the United States
- 2. Veteran's Benefits Administered by Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government; Digest of Laws and Basic Statistics
- 3. State Veterans' Laws
- 4. Veterans in Our Society: Data on the Conditions of Military Service and on the Status of the Veteran
- 5. Benefit Levels in Veteran's Programs
- 6. The Administration of Veterans' Benefits
- 7. Survivor Benefits for Service-Connected Deaths and Veterans' Insurance
- 8 A. Compensation for Service-Connected Disabilities
- 8 B. The Veterans' Administration Disability Rating Schedule: Historical Development and Medical Appraisal
- 8 C. Survey of Disabled Veterans
- 9 A. Readjustment Benefits: General Survey and Appraisal
- 9 B. Readjustment Benefits: Education and Training, and Employment and Unemployment
- 9 C. Veterans' Loan Guaranty and Direct Loan Benefits
- 10. Veterans' Non-Service-Connected Pensions
- 11. Canadian Benefits for War Veterans: A Comparison with United States Veterans' Benefits
- 12. Discharge Requirements for Veterans' Benefits

#### SERIES DESCRIPTION

#### Box No. Series and Subseries

1-22 I. Administrative Records. 22 boxes.

Material relating to the organization and operation of the Commission and its staff. Arranged in 6 subseries.

1-6 1. Subject File. 6 boxes.

General information on the Commission, including biographies of the members and staff, job applications, correspondence with the general public and Congress, the Commission's reading file and press releases. Arranged alphabetically by subject

6-8 2. Staff File. 2 boxes

Files on individual members of the Commission and its staff, mostly containing correspondence regarding their duties and some biographical information. Arranged by name.

8-10 3. Veterans Organizations. 2 boxes.

Correspondence with private organizations which were concerned with veterans affairs. Most of the files concern the reaction of the organizations to the work of the Commission.

10-13 4. Government Agencies. 3 boxes.

Files on the relations between the Commission and various government agencies which dealt with veterans matters.

13-16 5. Agency Briefings. 3 boxes.

Agenda, minutes, reports and transcripts of meetings at which the Commission staff was briefed on veterans programs by the representatives of government agencies which dealt with veterans matters.

16-22 6. Minutes. 6 boxes.

Agenda, minutes and transcripts of meetings of the Commission, arranged chronologically.

#### 23-104 II. Staff Studies. 82 boxes.

Material relating to studies made by the Commission staff. Arranged in 13 subseries according to the subject being studied. Each subseries contains reference material collected by the staff and drafts of Commission reports on the subject.

- 23-36 1. Disability Rating Schedule. 14 boxes
- 36-40 2. Administration of Veterans Benefits. 4 boxes.
- 40-42 3. Discharge Requirements. 2 boxes.
- 42-43 4. Historical Development of Veterans Benefits. 1 1/2 boxes.
- 5. State Veterans Laws. 1 1/2 boxes.
- 45-47 6. Benefits Levels. 1 1/2 boxes.
- 48-54 7. Survivor Benefits. 7 boxes.
- 54-58 8. Canadian Benefits. 4 boxes.
- 58-64 9. Veterans in Our Society. 6 boxes
- 64-66 10. Loan Guaranty Benefits. 2 boxes.
- 66-78 11. Readjustment Benefits. 12 boxes.
- 78-99 12. Pensions & Disability Benefits. 21 boxes.
- 100-104 13. Final Report. 5 boxes.
- 105-152 III. Miscellaneous Files. 48 boxes.

Publications, reference material, oversized computer printouts and statistical charts, and IBM cards used in the statistical surveys made by the Commission. Arranged in 4 subseries.

1. Committee on Review of Concepts. 1 box.

Files of a committee in the Bureau of the Budget which studied labor statistics. The files belonged to Paul Stanchfield, a member of the Commission staff who was on loan from the Department of Labor.

105-109 2. Subject File 4 boxes.

Miscellaneous printed material and drafts used for reference by the Commission staff. Arranged by subject.

3. Oversized Publications and Tables. 9 boxes;

Publications, computer printouts and statistical charts used for reference by the Commission staff.

119-152 4. Disability Survey Data. 34 boxes.

Survey forms and IBM cards collected by the Commission for use in statistical surveys of veterans and the benefits they were receiving.

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7 Brannon, E. M.

Browne, Vincent

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8 Patten, Thomas H., Jr.

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- 2. Blain, Daniel
- 3. Flower, Bardwell H.
- 4. Mellet, John A.P.
- 5. Menninger, Karl A.
- 27 6. Overholser, Winfred
  - 7. Klingman, Walter O.
  - 8. Merritt, H. Houston

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- 9. Pollock, Lewis J.
- 10. Schwab, Robert Sidney
- 11. Adams, F. Deannette
- 12. Bauer, Walter
- 13. Brown, Charles L.
- 14. Duryee, Wilbur A.
- 15. Lewis, Howard P.
- 16. Loeb, Robert F.
- 17. Minor, John M.
- 18. Reznikoff, Paul
- 19. Youman, John B.
- 20. Wood, Hugh
- 21. Amberson, J. Burns
- 22. King, Donald S.
- 23. Long, Esmond R.
- 24. Mayer, Edgar
- 25. Pottenger, Francis M.
- 26. Smith, David T.
- 27. Landis, Eugene M.
- 28. Kossman, Charles E.
- 29. Morgan, Hugh J.
- 30. Stroud, William D.

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- 32. Cooke, Walter A.
- 33. Palmer, Walter L.
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  - 38. Reifenstein, Edward D., Sr.
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  - 40. Allen, Arthur W.
  - 41. Altemeier, William A
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  - 43. Griswold, R. Arnold
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  - 46. Alldredge, Rufus H,
  - 47. Bunnell, Sterling
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  - 49. Hampton, Oscar P., Jr.
  - 50. Loutzenheiser, John J.
  - 51. Spruling, R. Glenn
  - 52. Woodhall, Barnes
  - 53. Blocker, Truman G.

54. Brown, James G.

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- 55. Canfield, Norton
- 56. Maxwell, James H.
- 57. McMahon, Bernard
- 58. Shea, John J.
- 59. Kuhn, Hedwig S.
- 60. Scheie, Harold S.
- 29 61. Higgins, Charles C.
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  - 66. Rusk, Howard
  - 67. Zeiter, Walter J.
  - 68. Downing, John G.
  - 69. Livengood, Clarence S.
  - 70. Gannon, James A.
  - 71. Gray, Roscoe N.
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  - 73. Sayers, Royd R.
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